



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Am

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,380	08/13/2001	Satyendra Yadav	42390P11648	1017

8791 7590 06/06/2005

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

EXAMINER

BULLOCK JR, LEWIS ALEXANDER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2195

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/929,380	Applicant(s) YADAV, SATYENDRA	
	Examiner Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.	Art Unit 2127	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/13/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because of Draftperson's Review. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 13-21, 26-31, 39-42, 46-55, 59-64 and 72-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by SUNG (U.S. Patent 6,226,684).

As to claim 1, SUNG teaches a system comprising a first dispatcher (router) having a local dispatch table (router table) including data (session information / communication information); at least a second dispatcher (another router) coupled with the first dispatcher (router), the second dispatcher having a local dispatch table (router

Art Unit: 2195

table) including at least a portion of the data (similar session information / communication information) (via the synchronizing of table entries); and a plurality of servers (servers) coupled with each of the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher (routers) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 5, SUNG teaches a system comprising: a router (router / data center) having a port; a first dispatcher (router) coupled with the port, the first dispatcher having a local dispatch table (router table) including at least one session entry (table entry) identifying a client (client) and a selected server (server); at least a second dispatcher (router) coupled with the port, the second dispatcher having a local dispatch table (router table) including a session entry (table entry) identifying the client (client) and the selected server (server) (via the synchronizing of table entries); a network (col. 3, lines 51-53), each of the first dispatcher (router) and the second dispatcher (another router) coupled with the network; and a plurality of servers (servers), each of the plurality of servers coupled with the network (col. 3, line 51 – col. 4, line 7; see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 13, SUNG teaches a method comprising: maintaining a local dispatch table (router table) in each dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), each dispatcher coupled with a plurality of servers (servers); and placing at least shared data in the local dispatch table of each dispatcher (via the synchronizing of table entries) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 16, SUNG teaches a method comprising: placing a session entry (table entry) in a local dispatch table (router table) of one dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the session entry (table entry) identifying a client (client) and a server (server) selected from a plurality of servers (servers) coupled with the plurality of dispatchers (routers); and broadcasting a dispatch table update (via the multicast message) to all other dispatchers (routers) of the plurality of dispatcher, the dispatch update identifying the client and the selected server (table entry) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 19, SUNG teaches a method comprising: receiving a packet (message) at one dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the packet including a connection request from a client (client); placing a session entry (table entry) in a local dispatch table (router table) of the one dispatcher (router), the session entry identifying the client (client) and a server (server) selected from a plurality of servers (servers) coupled with the plurality of dispatchers (routers); and broadcasting a dispatch table update (via the multicast message to synchronize table entries) to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers (routers) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 26, SUNG teaches a method comprising receiving a packet (message) at a router (router / data center) coupled with a plurality of dispatchers

Art Unit: 2195

(routers), the plurality of dispatchers (routers) coupled with a plurality of servers (servers); selecting a dispatcher (router) from the plurality of dispatchers (routers); and transmitting the packet (message) to the selected dispatcher (router) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 29, SUNG teaches a method comprising: receiving a packet (message) at a router (router / data center) having a port coupled with a plurality of communication links (links to routers / servers), each of the plurality of communication links coupled with one dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the plurality of dispatchers (routers) coupled with a plurality of servers (servers); selecting a communication link from the plurality of communication links (via selecting a router); and transmitting the packet (message) over the selected communication link to a corresponding dispatcher (router) coupled with the selected communication link (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 39, SUNG teaches a method comprising: receiving a packet (message) at a router (router / data center) having a port coupled with a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the packet (message) including a connection request from a client (client); transmitting the packet from the router (router / data center) to a first dispatcher (router) of the plurality of dispatchers (routers); selecting a server (server) from a plurality of servers (servers) coupled with the plurality of dispatchers (routers); placing a session entry (table entry) in a local dispatch table (router table) of the first dispatcher

Art Unit: 2195

(router), the session entry identifying the client (client) and the selected server (server); broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher (router) to all other dispatchers (routers) of the plurality of dispatchers (via the multicast message to synchronize the tables of all routers), the dispatch table update identifying the client (client) and the selected server (server); and transmitting the packet to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 2, SUNG teaches a router (router / data center) having a port coupled with each of the first dispatcher (router) and the second dispatcher (router) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 14, SUNG teaches the broadcasting a dispatch table update from one dispatcher (router) to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers (routers) (via a multicast message to synchronize the table entries of the routers) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 15, SUNG teaches the shared data (table entry) identifying at least one client (client) and a selected server (server) of the plurality of servers (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 17, SUNG teaches placing a session entry (table entry) in a local dispatch table (router table) of each dispatcher (routers), the session entry identifying

Art Unit: 2195

the client (client) and the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 18, SUNG teaches the transmitting a packet (communication) from one dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 20, SUNG teaches receiving the dispatch table update (multicast message to synchronize the table entries of the routers) at each dispatcher (router) of the all other dispatchers; and placing the session entry (table entry) in a local dispatch table (router table) of the each dispatcher, the session entry identifying the client (client) and the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 21, SUNG teaches receiving a second packet (message) at another dispatcher (router) of the plurality of dispatchers; searching the local dispatch table (router table) of the another dispatcher to identify the selected server (server); and transmitting the second packet to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 22, SUNG teaches another dispatcher (router) and the one dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 27, SUNG teaches arbitrarily selecting the selected dispatcher (router) from the plurality of dispatchers (routers) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 28, SUNG teaches searching a local dispatch table (router table) of the selected dispatcher (router) to determine a selected server (server) of the plurality of servers; and transmitting the packet (message) from the selected dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 30, SUNG teaches arbitrarily selecting the selected communication link from the plurality of communication links (via selecting a router) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 31, SUNG teaches searching a local dispatch table (router table) of the corresponding dispatcher (router) to determine a selected server (server) of the plurality of servers (servers); and transmitting the packet (message) from the corresponding dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 40, SUNG teaches selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links (via selecting a router), each of the plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers (router) with the port of the router (router / data center); and transmitting the packet (message) over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher (router) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 41, SUNG teaches randomly selecting the communication link from the plurality of communication links (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 42, SUNG teaches determining a load on each of the plurality of servers (servers); and selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on the server (server) (col. 10, lines 6-21; col. 9, lines 40-53).

As to claims 46-48, refer to claims 13-15 for rejection.

As to claims 49-51, refer to claims 16-18 for rejection.

As to claims 52-55, refer to claims 19-22 for rejection.

As to claims 59-61, refer to claims 26-28 for rejection.

As to claims 62-64, refer to claims 29-31 for rejection.

As to claims 72-75, refer to claims 39-42 for rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9, 10, 32-38, 44, 65-71 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SUNG (U.S. Patent 6,226,684) in view of TSUKAKOSHI (U.S. Patent 6,496,510).

As to claim 32, SUNG teaches a method comprising: receiving a packet (message) at one dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the plurality of dispatchers (routers) coupled with a plurality of servers (servers); searching a local dispatch table (router table) of the one dispatcher (router); transmitting the packet from the one dispatcher (router) to a server (server) of the plurality of servers (servers) if the local dispatch table (router table) identifies the server (via determining that the client communicates with a particular server as indicated in the table entry) (see figs. 3 and 4;

Art Unit: 2195

col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30). However, SUNG does not teach the transmitting the packet from the one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher.

TSUKAKOSHI teaches the sending of packets using dispatchers (router nodes) by transmitting the packet from the one dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) to a locking dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit designated as being the lowest cost router for communicating with a particular network) of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table (table) includes a client lock (hop router address) (col. 6, lines 4-21) wherein each dispatcher (router device) distributes update information to other dispatchers (router devices) (col. 6, lines 53-60; col. 7, lines 25-30; col. 8, lines 4-11). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of SUNG with the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI in order to perform routing protocol processing without using extra addresses and without exerting a heavy load on a particular router node (col. 2, lines 30-34).

As to claim 35, SUNG teaches a method comprising: receiving a first packet (message) at one dispatcher (router) of a plurality of dispatchers (routers), the first packet including a connection request from a client (client); and broadcasting a dispatch table update from the one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers (via the multicast message to synchronize router table entries) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30). However, TSUKAKOSHI does not teach the use of a client lock.

TSUKAKOSHI teaches the sending of packets using dispatchers (router nodes) by creating a client lock on packets received from the client (via storing a router address in the table entry); transmitting the packet from the one dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) to a locking dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit designated as being the lowest cost router for communicating with a particular network) of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table (table) includes a client lock (hop router address) (col. 6, lines 4-21) wherein each dispatcher (router device) distributes update information to other dispatchers (router devices) (col. 6, lines 53-60; col. 7, lines 25-30; col. 8, lines 4-11). It would be inherent to the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI that since changes to the tables are sent to other router nodes, that the router address is also sent to the other router nodes to tell them to send a particular type of message to the hop router. Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of SUNG with the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI in order to perform routing protocol processing without using extra addresses and without exerting a heavy load on a particular router node (col. 2, lines 30-34).

As to claims 9 and 10, SUNG substantially discloses the invention above. However, SUNG does not teach the router exhibiting port trunking by having identical network addresses. TSUKAKOSHI teaches the router (router device / cluster-type router) exhibiting port trunking and the first dispatcher (router node) and second dispatcher (router node) exhibiting identical network addresses (no need to assign sub-net addresses) (col. 2, line 30-62; col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 7) wherein each router

Art Unit: 2195

device distributes update information to other router devices (col. 6, lines 53-60; col. 7, lines 25-30; col. 8, lines 4-11). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of SUNG with the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI in order to perform routing protocol processing without using extra addresses and without exerting a heavy load on a particular router node (col. 2, lines 30-34).

As to claim 33, TSUKAKOSHI teaches transmitting messages from one dispatcher (router node) to another dispatcher (router node) based on a client lock (address indication to send the packet to hop router for processing) (col. 6, lines 8-22). SUNG teaches selecting a server (server) from the plurality of servers; and transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 34, TSUKAKOSHI teaches transmitting messages (update information) from one dispatcher (router node) to another dispatcher (router node) (col. 6, lines 8-22). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that this information would be the table entry information, hence the lock information and would include the removal of such information such that the other router nodes know of the update.

As to claim 36, TSUKAKOSHI teaches receiving at least a second packet (packet) at another dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) of the plurality of

Art Unit: 2195

dispatchers; and transmitting the second packet from the another dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) to the one dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) (col. 6, lines 8-22).

As to claim 37, TSUKAKOSHI teaches transmitting messages from one dispatcher (router node) to another dispatcher (router node) based on a client lock (address indication to send the packet to hop router for processing) (col. 6, lines 8-22). SUNG teaches selecting a server (server) from the plurality of servers; and transmitting the packet from the dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30).

As to claim 38, TSUKAKOSHI teaches transmitting messages (update information) from one dispatcher (router node) to another dispatcher (router node) (col. 6, lines 8-22). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that this information would be the table entry information, hence the lock information and would include the removal of such information such that the other router nodes know of the update.

As to claim 44, SUNG substantially discloses the invention above. However, SUNG does not teach the use of a client lock between dispatchers. TSUKAKOSHI teaches placing a client lock on the packet (via placing a table entry indicating a hop router address for the packet); receiving at least a packet (packet) at another dispatcher

Art Unit: 2195

(router node having a forwarding unit) of the plurality of dispatchers; and transmitting the packet from the another dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) to the first dispatcher (router node having a forwarding unit) (col. 6, lines 8-22). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of SUNG with the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI in order to perform routing protocol processing without using extra addresses and without exerting a heavy load on a particular router node (col. 2, lines 30-34)

As to claims 65-67, refer to claims 32-34 for rejection.

As to claims 68-71, refer to claims 35-38 for rejection.

As to claim 77, refer to claim 44 for rejection.

6. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 23-25, 43, 45, 56- 58, 76 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SUNG (U.S. Patent 6,226,684).

As to claims 3 and 4, SUNG substantially discloses the invention above. However, SUNG does not teach the router exhibiting port trunking by having identical network addresses. TSUKAKOSHI teaches the router (router device / cluster-type router) exhibiting port trunking and the first dispatcher (router node) and second dispatcher (router node) exhibiting identical network addresses (no need to assign sub-net addresses) (col. 2, line 30-62; col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 7) wherein each router

Art Unit: 2195

device distributes update information to other router devices (col. 6, lines 53-60; col. 7, lines 25-30; col. 8, lines 4-11). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of SUNG with the teachings of TSUKAKOSHI in order to perform routing protocol processing without using extra addresses and without exerting a heavy load on a particular router node (col. 2, lines 30-34).

As to claims 6-8, SUNG teaches a network with multiple routers for communicating a client to a server (col. 4, lines 42-48). However, SUNG does not teach that the network is a system area network or a LAN, WAN, or MAN. Official Notice is taken in that a system area network exhibiting InfiniBand architecture, LAN, WAN, and MAN are well known in the art and therefore would be obvious in view of the teachings of SUNG in order to facilitate the reconnection of clients to respective servers in a system area network, LAN, WAN, or MAN environment.

As to claims 11 and 12, SUNG teaches selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application (via selecting the server based on the content groups cached by the server) (col. 10, lines 6-22). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art that there must exist different content group, i.e. applications, since the servers are selected based on the content groups.

As to claims 23-25, SUNG teaches the broadcasting a dispatch table update from one dispatcher (router) to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers

Art Unit: 2195

(routers) (via a multicast message to synchronize the table entries of the routers) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30). However, SUNG does not teach that the update is a session end message. Official Notice is taken in that it is well known in the art that clients send session begin and session end messages. It would be obvious that a session end message ends a session thereby removing it from the router table. Therefore, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to the well known session end message would send out a multicast message of ending a session among routers in combination with the teachings of SUNG.

As to claim 43, SUNG teaches selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application (via selecting the server based on the content groups cached by the server) (col. 10, lines 6-22). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the content group, i.e. application, of the packet must be identified in order to select a server based on the content group.

As to claim 45, SUNG teaches routing a packet from the dispatcher (router) to the selected server (server) (see figs. 3 and 4; col. 5, lines 20-58; col. 6, lines 10-30). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that in order to route the request one would have to change the network address of the message from the dispatcher set by the client to the server set by the dispatcher.

As to claims 56-58, refer to claims 23-25 for rejection.

As to claims 76 and 78, refer to claims 43 and 45 for rejection.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 31, 2005


LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER